

a few brief moments of not paying attention that the Communist Chinese have come into the Spratley Islands with their warships and established a presence in the Spratley Islands. This is an act of intimidation, it is an act of a bully, and our best friend in the Pacific, the Philippines, is being bullied by the Communist Chinese. We need to stand by the Philippines by giving them the means that they need at the very least to protect their own interests to their own territory.

To deter this type of aggression from China and belligerence from China, we need to move forward to ensure that as we have surplus ships and airplanes that we are taking out of service from the Cold War, we should be providing these to the Philippines, at no cost or at very low cost, because it does not cost us anything, we are just going to store them out in the middle of the desert, let us give these weapons that are surplus weapons, Cold War weapons, to the Philippines and let them defend themselves so that they can make sure that they deter any aggression in the future. This is what friendship is all about.

As we are now patting ourselves on the back and patting the Philippines on the back for being a democratic country, let us make sure we remember they are in need of somebody standing beside them in this confrontation with China.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important and a timely resolution recognizing the importance of the Philippines and their relations with our Nation. It is supported by the administration and has significant bipartisan backing. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues in the House to fully adopt this measure.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support for enactment of House Resolution 404, regarding relations between the people of the United States and those of the Philippines.

It is significant that we enact the resolution to salute and congratulate the Philippines on the 100th anniversary of its independence from Spain and its achievement of the establishment of its democracy.

It is also noteworthy that the resolution also thanks the Philippines for aiding the U.S. in World War II, the Korean War and in Vietnam. It underscores the need for Congress to enact the Filipino Veterans Equity Act to extend full veterans benefits to Filipino soldiers who fought along side U.S. soldiers in World War II.

Mr. Speaker, approximately 200,000 Filipino soldiers were under the command of General Douglas MacArthur during the early months of World War II. During that period, our armed forces in the Philippines were isolated from food, medical and ammunition supplies. Filipino soldiers displayed exemplary loyalty and courage in the defense of their nation and fought in every major battle, including Bataan and Corregidor.

Beyond the outstanding conduct of the regular Army forces, after the islands fell to Japan,

thousands of courageous Filipinos took up arms to continue the fight through guerilla warfare against enormous odds. Not only did they undermine the occupation forces, but they provided valuable intelligence to U.S. forces in the Southwest Pacific, rescued downed American pilots and diverted powerful enemy forces from deployment elsewhere.

An estimated 60,000 to 80,000 surviving Filipino veterans, however, have been denied the full range and extent of veterans benefits available to American veterans with whom they fought side by side. This is an intolerable situation and we must resolve to remedy this tragic and insensitive dilemma.

I urge my colleagues to review the provisions of H.R. 836, the Philippines Veterans Equity Act, and support the effort to bring the bill to the House floor for debate and enactment.

Mr. BERMAN. I rise in support of H. Res. 404 regarding American-Philippines relations, regarding Taiwan's positive role in the Asian financial crisis and affirming American support for peace and stability on the Taiwan Strait and security for Taiwan's democracy.

There is no more apt time than the centennial of American-Philippine relations to salute the enduring friendship between our two countries. It is a friendship which has flourished despite its tragic beginnings in a conflict first with the Spanish and subsequently with Filipino independence fighters. But we learned from that struggle and subsequently worked diligently to grant independence as quickly as possible. American teachers spread throughout the archipelago bringing the benefits of modern education to the majority of the country. In World War II, Filipino troops fought bravely side-by-side with American forces and Filipino guerrilla fighters were indispensable in the liberation of the Philippines from Japanese occupation. The Philippines continued, even after independence, to be America's most important ally in Asia, again contributing troops to the Korean Conflict and to the Vietnam War. We owe a debt of gratitude, if not more, to our Philippine friends. We all rejoiced when the Filipino "people power revolution" overthrew the Marcos dictatorship. The Multilateral Aid Initiative for the Philippines that the American Congress launched following the fall of Marcos was an effort not only to demonstrate our support for Filipino democracy but also to show our lasting commitment to an enduring close relationship with the Philippines. This continues to be the basis for our policy and it is instructive that during the current Asian financial crisis it is the democratic country of the Philippines which has so far escaped the worst effects of the crisis.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution of which I am an original cosponsor.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 404 which commemorates the 100 years of relations between the people of the Philippines and the people of the United States.

As an original co-sponsor of this resolution and a Member who represents one of the largest Filipino communities in the Nation, I am keenly aware of the many contributions that Filipinos have made to this country and of the immense importance of continued good relations with the nation of the Philippines.

As President Clinton once said, the Philippines is our oldest friend in Asia.

This bill recognizes the great sacrifices that the Filipinos made in the struggle against Jap-

anese imperialism in World War II where they fought alongside American soldiers, as they did again in Korea and Vietnam.

In addition to our historic ties, today our nations are also united by our strong economic ties. The Philippines is the twenty-first largest trading partner of the United States and absorbs a large amount of U.S. exports.

As the years pass, I am confident that our bilateral relations will only grow stronger—the bonds between our nations go beyond the diplomatic relations we have with most nations; these are bonds between people fostered by our historic relationship and maintained out of mutual respect and admiration for one another.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 404.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ACKNOWLEDGING POSITIVE ROLE OF TAIWAN IN ASIAN FINANCIAL CRISIS

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 270) acknowledging the positive role of Taiwan in the current Asian financial crisis and affirming the support of the American people for peace and stability on the Taiwan Strait and security for Taiwan's democracy, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. Con. Res. 270

Whereas the President of the United States has announced he intends to travel to Beijing in June 1998 to discuss the common interests of the United States and the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the American people desire strong relations with the people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait;

Whereas it is the policy of the United States Government to take all necessary action to ensure peace and stability on the Taiwan Strait, while continuing mutually beneficial trade relations with Taiwan's vibrant economy;

Whereas the American people have repeatedly welcomed and supported democracy for the people of Taiwan;

Whereas Taiwan set an example for democratization in the region having successfully held free and fair elections at the local and national level and encouraging the development of democratic institutions;

Whereas the American people seek to promote economic stability and growth amidst the current financial turmoil in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas Taiwan's economy has weathered the current Asian financial crisis better than others in the region;

Whereas Taiwan has proposed to use various means to help stabilize the economies of many of its neighbors, including possibilities for action by the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum of which it is a member;

Whereas Taiwan has expressed its willingness to provide financial assistance to its neighbors;

Whereas in the spring of 1996, the political leadership of the People's Republic of China used provocative military maneuvers, including missile launch exercises in the Taiwan Strait, in an attempt to intimidate the people of Taiwan during their historic, free, and democratic presidential election;

Whereas officials of the People's Republic of China refuse to renounce the use of force against the people on Taiwan;

Whereas the use of force, and the threat to use force, by the People's Republic of China against Taiwan undermines regional stability; and

Whereas a senior United States executive branch official has again recently called upon the People's Republic of China to renounce any use of force against Taiwan: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—*

(1) the United States abides by all previous understandings of a "one China" policy and its abiding interest in a peaceful resolution of the Taiwan Straits issue; and

(2) the President of the United States should seek, at the June summit meeting this year in Beijing, a public renunciation by the People's Republic of China of any use of force, or threat to use force, against democratic Taiwan.

Amend the title so as to read: "Concurrent resolution acknowledging Taiwan's desire to play a positive role in the current Asian financial crisis and affirming the support of the American people for peace and stability on the Taiwan Strait and security for Taiwan's democracy."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), the chairman of the Committee on Rules, for introducing this timely resolution on Taiwan. I also want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, for his support of the measure. I am pleased to bring it to the floor today for consideration.

Mr. Speaker, it is particularly important that the House make a statement on Taiwan, especially in light of President Clinton's fast approaching summit with the Chinese in Beijing. Tai-

wan is of singular importance to our Nation. Taiwan plays a pivotal role in regional prosperity and stability. But this prosperity and stability can be threatened. We need only to remember back to the ominous period in the spring of 1996 when Chinese M-9 missiles flew across the Strait of Taiwan into international air and sea lanes in a heavy-handed attempt by Beijing to threaten the first democratic elections in 5,000 years of Chinese history. That sort of missile diplomacy on the part of China is unacceptable, and it is appropriate that we call on Beijing to renounce the use of force in settling the Taiwan question.

Finally, I want to commend Taiwan on the development of a vibrant democracy and a robust economy. I want to state my firm belief that the issue of one China must be settled peacefully and first and foremost by the Chinese people on both sides of the Strait of Taiwan, not by one side dictating terms to the other through missile diplomacy or otherwise. I support this resolution. I encourage my colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 270, which acknowledges Taiwan's desire to play a positive role in the Asian financial crisis and affirms American support for peace and stability on the Taiwan Strait and security for Taiwan's democracy.

I commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) the author of the resolution and the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, also the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) the chairman of the Committee on Rules, and other colleagues that have worked toward adoption of this important measure. I am proud to join our colleagues in support of this legislation. Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to also commend the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific for his leadership and support of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Taiwan should be congratulated for the outstanding accomplishments of this thriving and prosperous democracy of 22 million people. Taiwan is one of the world's most compelling economic success stories, rising from the destruction of World War II to become a global trading power with foreign exchange reserves today second only to Japan.

Despite the financial crisis that has crippled many countries in Asia, Taiwan has shown great resilience. While South Korea, Indonesia, Japan and other neighbors have stagnant economies, Taiwan's gross domestic product is projected to increase by 6 percent in

1998. This maintains the momentum of the past three decades, where Taiwan's GDP growth averaged 9 percent.

□ 1730

Taiwan's stock market has also survived very well with market capitalization of some \$300 billion. Taiwan's stock market has surpassed Hong Kong's to rank second only to Japan's stock market in Asia.

Mr. Speaker, in light of Taiwan's relative prosperity, her offer to extend financial assistance to her Asian neighbors undergoing financial turmoil is welcome and highly commendable. Whether Taiwan's assistance be provided through APEC or another forum, the United States should recognize and support Taiwan's significant efforts to promote economic stability in the Asian Pacific region.

Taiwan must also be commended its significant progress towards democratization with free and fair elections being held at the local and national levels. This movement came to full bloom in 1996 with Taiwan's first Presidential elections. The historic elections were conducted democratically and peacefully despite the threats and provocations issued by the People's Republic of China.

In the spring of 1996, I supported the actions taken by the Clinton administration in sending the *Nimitz* and the *Independence* carrier groups to the Taiwan Strait to maintain peace. China's missile tests and threatened use of force contravened China's commitment under the 1979 and 1982 joint communiqués to resolve Taiwan's status by peaceful means. The joint communiqués along with the Taiwan's Relations Act are the foundation of our One China policy which fundamentally stresses that force should not be used in resolution of the Taiwan question. Clearly it is in the interests of the United States and all parties that the obligation be honored.

Mr. Speaker, in light of our understanding of the One China policy and its support of the peaceful resolution of the Taiwan Strait issue, I will join our colleagues in urging that the President raise this matter in his summit meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to support it and to adopt it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) the sponsor of this resolution and the distinguished chairman of our Committee on Rules.

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for yielding this time to me, and I certainly thank the chairman of the subcommittee as well.

Mr. Speaker, as the author of this very simple resolution, let me just say

that it is necessary because of the continuing belligerent attitude of the Communist Chinese towards our great friends, the people in Taiwan, our stronger allies in the history of this Nation. We all know that Communist China has repeatedly and brazenly refused to renounce the potential use of military force to resolve its disputes with Taiwan, and it has shown on more than one occasion that it is willing to intimidate Taiwan with military force in these modern times, and that is terrible.

Let us recall that in March 1996, while Taiwan was conducting the very first free head of state elections in Chinese history, Communist China sought to intimidate the people of Taiwan by firing missiles just off Taiwan's coast. It was in anticipation of just this sort of rogue behavior which China is noted for by the Communist Chinese that induced those of us involved in writing the Taiwan Relations Act back 19 years ago to insert provisions designed to help defend Taiwan from Chinese military aggression. Go back and read the Taiwan Relations Act, and those provisions clearly state that the United States expects that the future of Taiwan will be decided by strictly peaceful means, and that any attempt by China to do otherwise would be considered a matter of grave concern to the United States of America while obliging the United States to maintain the capacity to resist any resort to force against Taiwan.

My colleagues, that is the law of the land, that is the American law, and it was in response to China's increasingly belligerent tone that prompted this House of Representatives in March of 1996 to pass the Cox resolution, which called on China to renounce force and explicitly informed Congress' views that the United States should, in fact, assist in defending Taiwan from invasion, attack or blockade by the People's Republic of China.

Regrettably this resolution today also seems necessary because of a disturbing trend in the Clinton administration's policy toward both countries. President Clinton has had in place a policy of unmitigated appeasement towards Communist China for 5 years now, but what is new, Mr. Speaker, is that in the past few months leading up to President Clinton's summit in Beijing, his administration has signaled in various ways that it may be ready to reach another Yalta accord with Communist China that would sell Taiwan down the drain. We have heard talk of yet another communique with the PRC. We have heard Secretary Albright talk of a strategic partnership with the PRC, and we have seen several former high-ranking Clinton administration officials, and I must say Republican administration officials as well that served under Reagan and Bush, touring China and Taiwan recently on what looks conspicuously like officially sanctioned missions and delivering the message that Taiwan cannot

expect any help from the United States. If it declares independence, then China then invades.

These "blame the victim" statements are, of course, immoral, and they are outrageous. They remind me of the sole statements we heard in opposition to lifting the arms embargo from Bosnia from people who said that doing so would embolden the Bosnians. Imagine that. We might just have emboldened people who were being slaughtered, and now we just might embolden our friends, our staunch allies in Taiwan by pressuring the butchers of Beijing to renounce force.

Oh, no, Mr. Speaker, it is precisely because the approach of the China appeasers lacks moral depth that also makes it so strategically myopic and dangerous. Because the Communist leaders in Beijing also lack any morality, they are bound to interpret these emanations from the Clinton administration, if left unchecked, as a sign of dwindling U.S. commitment to the defense of Taiwan. These are exactly the kinds of green lights that Adolf Hitler received in the 1930s and Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milosevic received in the early 1990s, and we will all know what happened each time that is. The fact is it is they, the Communists, the butchers of Beijing, who will be responsible if they invade Taiwan, and it is they who need to receive the message unequivocally and repeatedly that we expect them to resist using force.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I certainly want to compliment the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) for his deep understanding of the relationship existing between our country and Taiwan, and certainly like to say for the record I think the Clinton administration took appropriate action in showing our friends in China that two naval embattled carrier groups was sufficient to show that we also meant business. So I think along those lines, Mr. Speaker, I think the administration did the appropriate thing.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), a distinguished member of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from American Samoa for yielding this time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution which calls upon the United States to support the people of Taiwan in their democratically-elected government in the face of uncertainties in this increasingly volatile region of the world. I do so, however, with reservations, since this resolution has been amended by the Committee on International Relations since its introduction to reaffirm our adherence to the One China policy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a related injustice facing the people of Taiwan. Since 1972, the Taiwanese people have been denied membership in the World Health Organization. Young

children and older citizens who are particularly vulnerable to a host of emerging infectious diseases are without the knowledge and the expertise shared among the member nations of the World Health Organization. With increased travel and trade among the members of our global village, these diseases surely do not stop at national borders and boundaries. So why should we erect boundaries to shared information which would help improve the lives and the health of the 20 million inhabitants of Taiwan?

Due to Chinese opposition Taiwan continues to be denied WHO membership. This hurts the people of Taiwan, and importantly it denies the WHO and all of us in the world community the benefit of Taiwan's knowledge and expertise.

Interestingly the world gains more from Taiwanese membership in the WHO probably than Taiwan gains from membership in the WHO.

The people of Taiwan and their democratically-elected government face many serious threats to their sovereignty. Chinese aggression and their continuing threat of force to settle their claim to Taiwan is a serious problem. Equally threatening are their efforts to continue to thwart Taiwan's efforts to help improve the health of its citizens.

I have introduced legislation urging the President to press Taiwan's case for membership in the WHO and to urge my colleagues to join in this effort. As a free people, we should support the will of the people of Taiwan to choose their own destiny.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 270 and thank the gentleman from New York for yielding me this time.

As everyone in this body knows, the Congress has long played a critical role in the Taiwan relationship. Together with the other body, we have worked with the various Presidential administrations over the years to ensure adequate U.S. arms sales to Taiwan to meet Taiwan's defense needs without provoking an arms race with the PRC or other countries in the region, and this body is, after all, the actual author of the Taiwan Relations Act. It remains the law of the land.

Taiwan and the U.S. now share numerous fundamental values both economically and politically. Last February Taiwan and the United States concluded a market access agreement which provides immediate market access for U.S. agriculture products in Taiwan, for example, as a way of loosening restrictions on U.S. telecommunications firms operating in Taiwan as well. This is important because really it paves the way for Taiwan's membership in the WTO.

Politically Taiwan is now a vibrant democracy characterized by free elections, a free press and dynamic political campaigns. Taiwan's political metamorphosis over the last decade has been fundamentally impressive and serves as a model for peaceful democratic change in the region and beyond.

H. Con. Res. 270, which was introduced by the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) sends a clear message of Congress' deep respect and affinity for the people of Taiwan as well as a firm commitment to seeking a peaceful resolution regarding Taiwan's future. While it is true only the Chinese on both sides of the strait can determine their future, the United States must continue to play a role in ensuring the peace and stability of the region.

Mr. Speaker, this Member would commend the gentleman from New York for introducing H. Con. Res. 270 at this important point in U.S.-Chinese-Taiwanese relations. Mr. Speaker, I think it is particularly important that the Congress act on this legislation before the upcoming summit, and I urge adoption of H. Con. Res. 270.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER), a member of our committee.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, which leaves no doubt on either side of the Taiwan Straits as to just what is American policy.

And it was not that long ago that this administration proclaimed strategic ambiguity as its position on certain issues concerning the China-Taiwan situation. More recently we have been told that President Clinton had some intention of proposing a strategic partnership to the Communist Chinese when he will visit Communist China later on this month. What we need to know is what is a strategic partnership; what does that mean?

When we talk about a strategic partnership with a Communist dictatorship, no wonder the democratic peoples around the Pacific begin to worry about whether or not the United States will stand strong with them against a belligerent totalitarian government like they have in Beijing. A strategic partnership? Well, I hope that President Clinton has put that one away and decided not to use that.

This resolution underscores the Shanghai Declaration that was put in place by President Nixon so long ago during the cold war at a time when it made a great deal of sense to try to make sure that we were not in a conflict with China or with Russia at the same time that that declaration made it very clear that we believe in a One China policy. That was our concession, and their concession was that they would only use peaceful means to settle any dispute with Taiwan.

□ 1745

This resolution reconfirms that declaration so long ago. Some people have

been trying to suggest this has been an evolution of our policy, that in some way the talk of strategic partnership may well mean that we have not really maintained this same stalwart position on opposing the use of force against Taiwan.

No, that is what this resolution is about. We again state for the record in this resolution that as far as the Congress goes, yes, there is one China, and, yes, we insist that no force be used against the free and democratic people of Taiwan.

By the way, one note about one China. I believe there is one China, and, just as in the basis of what most Americans believe to be legitimate government, legitimate government is that government that has the consent of the governed. Legitimate government is that government that respects the human rights of its people. That is what our Founding Fathers said, that is what George Washington fought for, and that is what we write in our own founding documents.

So if there is one China, which I believe in, that one China has only one elected government, because the government in Beijing is not an elected government. We have one elected government in China and that is in Taiwan. We have a group of gangsters on the mainland. We have to make sure there is not force or violence to make sure that those two do not go into dispute.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, I think, just for the clarity of the record, that the administration is quite clear as far as its policies concerning the one China policy. It is quite clear the administration policy is one of engagement with the People's Republic of China. It is quite firm also, the administration's policy towards Taiwan is to continue the current relationship as it has been in the past. So with regard to the comments of my good friend from California, I think there is no ambiguity about the policy of the administration.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important resolution stressing Taiwan's importance to our own Nation, and it is supported by the administration and deserves bipartisan support. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues in the House to fully support the measure.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 270, the resolution on Taiwan. The Congress has always been a strong supporter of Taiwan. Taiwan's transition to a democratic state with a vibrant free market economy has solidified Congressional support. The emergence of a democratic Taiwan is indeed one of the most encouraging developments in Asia over the last decade. A democratic Taiwan is a shining example to all the countries in Asia which linger under the control of one man or one party.

This resolution sends a clear signal of our continued interest in preserving Taiwan's achievement.

This resolution calls on the President to seek at his upcoming summit in Beijing a commitment by the Chinese to renounce the use of force against Taiwan. I think this is in China's interest. Sowing the seeds of fear in the Taiwan Strait benefits neither side given the growing trade, travel, and investment between both countries.

Let me also make clear that this resolution, while noting the United States' acknowledgement that China believes that Taiwan is part of China—the so-called "One China" policy, is not an endorsement by the Congress of the Chinese perspective. Taiwan no longer claims that it controls China. Only when China makes a similar declaration will both sides be able to move beyond their present conflict to its resolution. There is one China, but it does not include Taiwan.

I would also take this opportunity to urge the Administration to fulfill the commitment it made in its Taiwan policy review to seek membership for Taiwan in appropriate international organizations. Taiwan's singular political and economic achievement give it the potential to play a tremendous constructive role in the international community. As this resolution suggests, Taiwan has proposed to assist its neighbors in the recent Asian financial crisis. It could play more of a role if given the chance. I would urge special consideration be given to finding a role for Taiwan in the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and World Health Organization. Just as it made no sense for the United States to pretend that China did not exist during the Cold War, it is equal nonsense to pretend that Taiwan does not exist in the post Cold War period.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution of which I am a cosponsor.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, which asks the President to seek to improve the relationship between Taiwan and China.

President Clinton's trip to China this month presents an opportunity to address a multitude of issues which will substantially effect the Pacific Rim, as well as American interests in the Pacific Rim. Taiwan's security is one such issue that should be discussed.

I understand that the relationship between Taiwan and the Chinese government is a tense one. This resolution seeks to reduce that tension by asking China to abstain from the use of military force in resolving the dispute.

In 1996, when China displayed a show of force in the Taiwan Strait, it was not just the people of China and Taiwan that were ill at ease, it was unsettling for the entire region. There is little doubt that the fragility of the situation poses a significant threat to American businesses that we want to protect.

I encourage the President to express to China our concerns for the stability of the region, and the importance that any dispute be resolved in a peaceful manner. And announce his support and America's support for the safety and security of the Democratic country of Taiwan—the Republic of China.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 270, acknowledging the importance of the Taiwanese leadership in the current Asian financial crisis, as well as the importance of the stability of the Taiwanese

Strait. I consider myself a good friend of Taiwan, and I am proud of the relationship that my Congressional District has with the government of Taiwan. Mr. Speaker, we all know that international trade is the essence of prosperity in this new economic era. There is perhaps no country which offers more promise for the United States and my home state of Texas than Taiwan.

I am proud of the role I have played in laying the foundation for our nation's relationship with Taiwan. It is my belief that the United States should embrace the people of Taiwan in matters of trade as the friends that they are.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 270, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### IRAN MISSILE PROLIFERATION SANCTIONS ACT OF 1997

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 457 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

##### H. RES. 457

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2709) to impose certain sanctions on foreign persons who transfer items contributing to Iran's efforts to acquire, develop, or produce ballistic missiles, with the Senate amendments thereto, and to consider in the House a single motion offered by the chairman of the Committee on International Relations or his designee that the House concur in each of the Senate amendments. The Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield my friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), the customary 30 minutes, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate on this subject only.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 457 is a very straightforward rule designed to facili-

tate the last step in the legislative process for H.R. 2709, the Iran Missile Proliferation Sanctions Act of 1997.

Members may remember that this legislation was overwhelmingly approved by this House on a voice vote through the suspension process in November of last year. The other body considered the House bill and passed it on a 90 to 4 vote just a few weeks ago, changing only two dates in the legislation to reflect the passage of time and intervening events that occurred since the House first acted this past November.

Therefore, the purpose of this rule is to allow the House to concur in the action taken by the other body so we can send this measure on to the President, who will, we hope, sign it into law expeditiously.

In technical terms, Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for a single motion offered by the chairman of the Committee on International Relations or his designee to concur in each of the Senate amendments, which are as I have just explained. The rule provides that those Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read. The rule then provides for 1 hour of debate in the House, to be equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. It is a very simple rule, very straightforward, very fair, and, I believe, will get the job done quickly.

Mr. Speaker, in recent days and weeks Americans have been jolted back into reality from what has been a lulling period of complacency about the threat of weapons of mass destruction in this dangerous world. The President has said repeatedly and pointedly that tonight our children will go to bed with no nuclear weapons pointed at them. Unfortunately, he was wrong. The world is a more dangerous place today. Events in India and Pakistan, allegations about advances in the Chinese missile program, and the potential for serious danger to our national security dominate the news these days.

We have seen that nuclear weapons remain a tremendous threat to world security and peace, and we understand quite well that those who seek to proliferate in this deadly weapons race have not learned the terrible lessons of history.

Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is a major issue of concern for the intelligence committees, for the Committee on National Security, for all the Members of the House and the other body, and, indeed, for every American. I must say that as chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I continue to be more than disappointed in the Clinton administration's approach to dealing with this issue, especially as we have seen it unfold in the past few weeks.

I remain dismayed that time and time again it seems that the administration is willing to place perceived economic interests ahead of national

security interests. The legislation we are bringing forward today is designed to send a strong signal to the world that we do not endorse such an approach and we specifically will not condone the transfer of missile goods or technology to Iran, a rogue nation that sponsors state terrorism and is actively engaged in weapons proliferation.

We know that Iran's intentions, with or without Khatemi, are clearly not in the best interests of our national security or our global stability. Yet that nation's capabilities are fast approaching the ability to produce medium- and long-range ballistic missiles. This legislation puts any foreign persons or entities who persist in providing missile technology to Iran on notice that their actions will result in stiff sanctions.

We are specifically interested in signaling to Russia and Russian firms that we expect their actions to speak as loudly as their words they used when, in January of this past year, the Russian Prime Minister issued a decree tightening legal controls on Russian exports of missile technology.

I think it is significant that the other body chose to use this January 22, 1998 date of that Russian decree as the effective date for the provisions of this legislation to underscore the importance of Russia implementing its stated policy. We are challenging them fairly and squarely to stop cheating, and we are saying to the Clinton administration, no more winking at violations, no more giving the benefit of the doubt to those who do not deserve it.

Mr. Speaker, this is a simple and fair rule, and I urge Members to support it and support the underlying bill, which is an important and vital message.

I also remain hopeful that the President will do the right thing and sign this legislation into law as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS), for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, this rule, House Resolution 457, provides for the consideration of Senate amendments to H.R. 2709. This is a bill that imposes sanctions on foreign individuals and companies to block Iran from acquiring the capability to build ballistic missiles. It is directed primarily at Russian companies. As my colleague from Florida described, this rule provides 1 hour of general debate, to be equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. Speaker, there is little disagreement in the House over the intent of this legislation. The House passed it by a voice vote last year, and there is support for the measure on both sides of the aisle. Though the Russian Government has taken a number of positive